

## Message Text

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42

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 SSO-00 NSC-06 NSCE-00 RSC-01

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O 211400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 962

UNCLAS KINSHASA 0567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES C.)

SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS

DEPT PLASE PASS TO:

MS. JOAN WILLOUGHBY, OFFICE OF

REP. CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.

RM. 2208

RAYBURN BLDG.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

THE FOLLOWING CABLE WAS SENT TO PRESIDENT FORD ON JANUARY  
20, AND SHOULD GO OUT AS PRESS RELEASE ASAP:

"MR. PRESIDENT,

I AM IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AND  
AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN KINSHASA, ZAIRE, SPONSORED BY  
THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE, BUT FINANCED BY THE FORD  
AND CARNEGIE FOUNDATION. THE AMERICAN DELEGATION CONSISTS  
OF: REPS. BIESTER (R-PA.), ANDERSON (R-ILL.), ERLNBORN  
(R-ILL.), BURKE (R-FLA.), CONTE (R-MASS.), YOUNG (D-GA.),  
COLLINS (D-ILL.), WALEN (R-COHIO), SCHROEDER (D-COLO.),  
PREYER (D-N. CAR.), AND MYSELF.

THIS IS THE LARGEST DELEGATION OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN EVER  
TO BE IN AN AFRICAN COUNTRY AT THE SAME TIME.

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THE AFRICAN DELEGATION CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM 18 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SEVERAL FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE CONFERENCE WAS OPENED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU WHO, AFTER EXPRESSING SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE U.S. AIRLIFT IN 1960 DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND OTHER U.S. SUPPORT, POINTEDLY CRITICIZED YOUR APPOINTMENT OF NATHANIEL DAVIS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA.

HIS REFERENCE TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN CHILE DURING THE ALLENDE REGIME CONFIRMS THE RAPIDLY-GROWING DISMAY IN AFRICAN CIRCLES REGARDING THIS APPOINTMENT. AFRICAN SUPPORTERS IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS, ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THIS CONCERN. MY CONCURRENCE IN THIS VIEW IS REINFORCED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MR. DAVIS, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT ON OR ABOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL. COMING BEHIND THE ABORTED TENURE OF DONALD EASUM, SOPHISTICATED SPECULATION IS THAT AFRICA CONTINUES TO BE OF MINIMAL PRIORITY FOR THE U.S. AND THAT AF BUREAU WILL BECOME THE DUMPING GROUND FOR RETIREES AND OTHER DIFFICULT CANDIDATES TO ASSIGN.

IN ANY EVENT, IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT MR. DAVIS' EFFECTIVENESS IN DEALING WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY HAPERED BY HIS PAST BACK-GROUND IN CHILE FOR SOMEONE TO ASSUME THIS POSITION WITH THESE HANDICAPS UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED. BUT, TO INSIST UPON SUCH AN APPOINTMENT DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE AND THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPHEAVALS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS PURE FOLLY.

RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT YOU WITHDRAW MR. DAVIS' APPOINTMENT."

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.  
CHAIRMAN,  
HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** OREP, (DIGGS, CHARLES C)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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